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An Earthly Explanation? CIA Must Have Brainwashed You

Just about the time I'd made up my mind to spend the next few months watching the slow and gentle onrush of spring—leaving the problems of Panama and Cuba and Laos and Congo and Viet Nam up to somebody else to solve another problem gets tossed into my lap. A man named John Laval, who lives in Molawan, N.J., writes in to say, ominously, that he would like to bring to my attention something I may not be aware of—"the very dangerous problem of unidentified flying objects," known as UFO's, for short.

Well, he's right. I wasn't aware that UFO's were getting to be a dangerous problem. I do remember that a couple of years ago there was a lot of uproar in the papers about flying saucers, but every time these phenomena were investigated, they turned out to be something else, such as a weather balloon or an airplane.

So I quit worrying about

UFO's, remembering that people are always seeing strange things in the sky. I remember the night the word reached Commerce, Ga., that the Armistice ending World War I had been signed. Somebody looked out the window at the moon, and saw a cross around the moon, and got on the telephone and called everybody in town to tell them there was a cross around the moon because the Armistice had been signed.

I was only nine years old then, but even then I had sense enough to know that if you looked at the moon, or any other distant bright light, through a screen, there was always a cross around the light, because of the way the screen refracted the light rays, or something. So I went out on the porch and looked at the moon in the clear, and sure enough there wasn't any cross around it. But the next morning, up town, everybody was telling everybody else about there being a cross around the moon because of the Armistice.

That was the time that people were paying a lot of attention to what writing spiders were writing in their webs, or the strange markings on hen eggs. Somebody was always bringing into the local newspaper office a hen egg with "Kaiser Bill," written on it, or telling the editor about a spider that had written "Peace," just as plain as you ever saw.

But to get back to Mr. Laval, and the UFO's.

He went on to say that the Air Force and the CIA had brainwashed everybody by telling them that the UFO's were just misidentified natural phenomena.

"When the truth finally comes out, and if it will," says Mr. Laval, "and contact is made with this superior civilization, you can expect a change on this planet such as mankind has never seen . . . in religion, science, governments, and military establishment. . . ."

The way things have been going lately, maybe a complete change wouldn't be such a bad idea.

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